

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6588

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AO, IT
SUBJ: ITALIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ANGOLA

1. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 10 WITH VISITING COUNTRY
OFFICER FOR ANGOLA DOUBLEDAY AND EMBOFF, MFA OFFICIAL
(FERRERO) DESCRIBED ITALIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
IN ANGOLA. OFFICIAL SAID THAT ITALIANS HAVE SENT MISSIONS
LARGELY TO REPLACE DEPARTED PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS.
ITALIAN ASSISTANCE INCLUDES PROGRAMS FOR TRAINING WORKERS
IN AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS POLICE
(IN AREA OF NORMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT). IN ADDITION,
STATE-OWNED ENERGY COMPANY ENI IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING
ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PARTICI-
PATION IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION. OTHER ITALIAN CORPORATIONS
PRESENT IN ANGOLA INCLUDE FIAT (SELLING TRACTORS) AND
ALITALIA (CARRYING OUT NORMAL COMMERCIAL FLIGHT SERVICE).

2. IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, ANOTHER FMA OFFICIAL
(RACHELE) TOLD US ABOUT VISIT TO ANGOLA OF ITALIAN
TEAM INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
TEAM TRAVELED ALL OVER COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN CENTER AND
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SOUTH, TO SURVEY NEEDS FOR HELP IN REPAIR OF AGRICULTURAL
MACHINERY. THEY FOUND, PAS EXPECTED, THAT ANGOLAN ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE PRESENCE IN ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT DECREASES WITH
DISTANCE FORM THE CAPITAL, AND THAT OUTSIDE THE URBAN
AREAS, LIFE SEEMS TO GO ON WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE
GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA. THE TEAM SAW A NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS
IN UNIFORM SIMILAR TO THOSE WORN BY CUBANS, BUT AS THEY

WERE CLEARLY NOT CUBANS, THE ITALIANS SURMISED THEY WERE
EAST EUROPEANS. THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO VISIT ALL PLACES ON
THEIR ITINERARY WITH ONE EXCEPTION--THAT CANCELLATION
APPARENTLY DUE TO FIGHTING IN AREA. GARDNER

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